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Identical letters dated 19 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 18 April 2000, from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continued aggression by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq through the illegal aerial exclusion zones and the carrying out by United States and British aircraft of 184 aggressive aerial sorties over Iraqi towns and villages during the period from 8 to 14 April 2000, which constitutes a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 19 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British aircraft have been continuing their violation of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. They carried out 184 sorties during the period from 8 to 14 April 2000, 78 of these from Saudi Arabia, 52 from Kuwait and 54 from Turkey. Details are given hereunder.

1. In the northern region 54 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0850 hours on 9 April 2000, United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Ayn Zalah and Zacho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 10 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Baibo, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Tall Afar, Mosul, Ayn Zalah and Zacho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1135 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1140 hours on 11 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Baibo, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Irbil, Ayn Zalah and Zacho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and at 1405 hours drove them off.

2. In the southern region, 130 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1350 hours on 9 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi Arabian territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi Arabian airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E2-C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1450 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1150 hours on 10 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti territory

penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 12 of them from Saudi Arabian territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi Arabian airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E2-C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Amarah, Taqtaqanah, Ashbajah, Basrah, Lasaf and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1455 hours on 11 April 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 14 of them from Saudi Arabian territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi Arabian airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E2-C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Amara, Taqtaqanah, Busayyah, Basrah, Lasaf, Amghar, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar, Samawah, Artawi and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1600 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1455 hours on 12 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 18 from Saudi Arabian territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi Arabian airspace and 2 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an EC-2 command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Busayyah, Basrah, Lasaf, Samawah, Salman, Artawi and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1615 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1455 hours on 14 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. They carried out 34 missions, 22 of them from Saudi Arabian territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi Arabian territory and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E2-C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Taqtaqanah, Busayyah, Basrah, Lasaf, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar, Samawah, Artawi, Salman, Diwaniyah, Jalibah, Afak and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2230 hours, drove them off.

This aggression represents the continuation of a consistent policy of hostility against Iraq that has been pursued by the United States of America and the United Kingdom since 1992 and is aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, deliberately and systematically bringing death to Iraq's citizens and inflicting damage upon its infrastructure and civilian installations. This policy has been confirmed by the repeated statements of United States and British officials purporting to defend the aerial exclusion zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the so-called aerial exclusion zones, which were imposed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom pursuant to a unilateral decision which has no legal basis or legitimacy. Iraq rejects all measures taken on the basis of this illegal decision and, in particular,

the fabricated excuses and pretexts used by those two States in efforts to disguise their military aggression against our country.

The logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the United States and the United Kingdom makes them full accomplices in the aggression against Iraq, and they must share international responsibility for these acts committed against the Iraqi people.

The Government of Iraq, in condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, calls upon the Security Council to assume its obligations for the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the Governments of those States with a view to inducing them to halt their ongoing and unjustified aggression against an independent sovereign State, to put an end to this aggression and to desist from any future repetition thereof.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq